

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 ERDA-05 NRC-05 AID-05 IO-13
ACDA-07 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 EB-08 DODE-00 FEA-01 /076 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084735

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: TARAPUR

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO APRIL 6 DESAI STATEMENT (IN PARLIAMENT)
INDIAN SCIENCE COUNSELLOR ANANDAKRISHNAN GAVE NEA/INS
(KUX) NOTE APRIL 13 REITERATING INDIAN CONCERNS ABOUT UN-
CERTAINTY OVER TARAPUR SUPPLIES.
2. ANANDAKRISHNAN SAID NOTE WAS ALSO PROMPTED BY INDIAN
CONCERN OVER RECENT USG QUESTIONING OF LAST-KIEFER REPORT.
THIS REPORT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT IN COLLABORATION WITH U.S.
OFFICIALS AND GOI ASSUMED HAD THE BACKING OF USG.
3. INDIANS HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FURTHER SCRAP RUN WAS
TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE TO FABRICATE ADDITIONAL 26 ASSEMBLIES
BUT DID NOT WISH TO OPERATE FUEL FABRICATION PLANT AT 20
PER CENT OF EFFICIENCY. INDIAN AEC HAD BEEN WILLING TO
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UNDERTAKE INITIAL SCRAP RUN AS SUGGESTED BY LAST-KIEFER,
BUT FELT FURTHER INEFFICIENT SCRAP RUN WAS UNREASONABLE
IMPOSITION.

4. ANANDAKRISHNAN STRESSED THAT SINCE INDIA WAS ONCE MORE
A DEMOCRACY, GOI WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO KEEP LID ON PUBLIC
DISCUSSION ABOUT TARAPUR AND WHAT IT REGARDED AS UNREASON-

ABLE DELAY BY USG IN CONSIDERING PENDING LICENSE WHICH HAD BEEN BEFORE NRC FOR OVER A YEAR.

5. KUX RESPONDED THAT U.S. OFFICIALS HAD STRESSED NEED FOR PATIENCE ON PART OF GOI WHILE NEW ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERED NUCLEAR POLICIES AND DEVELOPED EXPORT GUIDELINES. WE EXPECTED DECISIONS ON THESE VERY SHORTLY. AS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED TO INDIAN EMBASSY, WE WOULD THEN TURN TO SPECIFIC CASES LIKE TARAPUR. KUX URGED CONTINUED GOI PATIENCE AS DECISIONS WOULD BE COMING SHORTLY.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE LAST-KIEFER REPORT AND FOLLOW-ON QUESTION ABOUT FURTHER SCRAP RUN IN MAY-AUGUST PERIOD, KUX SAID IN VIEW OF THE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY IN THE U.S. OVER NUCLEAR FUEL SHIPMENTS TO INDIA, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE GET THE FACTS ABSOLUTELY STRAIGHT ON URGENCY OF SHIPMENTS. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WANTED TO AVOID A REPETITION OF THE CONFUSION OF A YEAR AGO OVER THE QUESTION OF WHEN THE FUEL WAS ACTUALLY NEEDED. FOR THIS REASON, WE HAD SCRUTINIZED THE LAST-KIEFER REPORT WITH GREAT CARE AND HAD REVIEWED THE DATA IN PRIVATE WITH THE NRC. AS A RESULT WE HAD SENT FURTHER TECHNICAL QUESTIONS TO INDIAN AEC AND ITS STAFF. WE WERE NOW COMPLETING OUR ANALYSIS OF THE DATA, AND WOULD VERY SHORTLY BE CONVEYING OUR INTERPRETATIONS TO THE INDIAN AEC.

7. ANANDAKRISHNAN AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE BOTH HAVE SAME VIEW ON WHAT THE FUEL SUPPLY DATA ARE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WHAT THEY MEAN. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, INDIAN DISMAY THAT USG APPEARED TO BE QUESTIONING VALIDITY OF LAST-KIEFER REPORT WHICH WAS NOT PREPARED BY INDIANS BUT BY AMERICAN EXPERTS SENT BY USG. SPEAKING ON PERSONAL BASIS, ANANDAKRISHNAN SAID THAT INDIAN EMBASSY HAD NOTE ON HAND FOR DELIVERY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BUT HAD DELAYED IN EXPECTATION OF EARLY WORD FROM USG ON TARAPUR. NOW, HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT AND IMPLICATION OF FURTHER DELAY BY USG IN QUERY ABOUT ADDITIONAL SCRAP RUN HAD TRIGGERED STRONGER INDIAN ACTION.
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Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: TECH, IN, US
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